(c) what were the total soft oils imported during the year 2001-2002;

(d) what are the main reasons for increasing imports of soft oils; and

(e) what efforts are being made to improve their production during 2002-2003 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) The total availability of a particular edible oil depends upon its production during that year. The total production of seeds of soyabean, Sunflower and Rapeseed Mustard during the last 2 years is as under :

Crop	Production	(000 tonnes)
Soyabean	7081.4	5272.9
Sunflower	683.6	733.0
Rapeseed-Mustard	5788.4	4207.1

(b) The total quantity of edible oils (fixed) including soft oils imported during 2000-01 is 39.75 lakh MT out of which the import of soft oil *viz.* crude soyabean oil, sunflower oil, safflower oil, cotton seed oil, refined rapeseed and sesamum oil is about 11.58 lakh MT.

(c) The import of soft oil mentioned in part (b) is about 13,17 lakh MT during the period April to November, 2001.

(d) There is a gap in demand and indigenous production of edible oil. This factor combined with low ruling international prices has led to heavy import of edible oils.

(e) The existing Centrally Sponsored Oilseeds Production Programme (OPP) which is under implementation in 28 States covering 408 selected districts to increase the production of oilseeds in the country, will continue, with some modifications during 2002-03 also. Under the scheme incentives by way of financial assistance are provided to the oilseed growers with a view to motivate them to take up the oilseed cultivation on a large scale.

Toning up of agricultural research

3949. SHRI ABANI ROY : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the scientists engaged in agricultural research have alarmed Government about the production of foodgrains falling day by day;

(b) if so, whether Government have taken any concrete steps to tone up agricultural research in the country; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) The foodgrains production is not falling day by day. Rather, during the year 2001-02, the foodgrains production is likely to be 211.17 million tonnes, which will be about 15.25 million tonnes more than the last year's production of 195.92 million tonnes. Thus, during the year 2001-02, the foodgrains production is expected to be an all time record.

(b) and (c) The development of appropriate varieties/hybrids and their production and protection technology for enhancing the production, productivity and the profitability of the farmers are the major thrust of research under the Indian Council of Agricultural Research. A number of steps such as development of varieties/hybrids in different crops and increasing the stability of production through incorporation of multiple disease/pest resistance and improving the quality have been undertaken. Apart from identifying various crops suitable for crop diversification, efforts are also on to reduce the duration of the crop for its introduction in new cropping system and crop diversification. Both the exotic and indigenous collection of valuable germplasms, planting materials of different crops are strengthened under Mission-Mode Project. Frontline demonstrations are also carried out in various crops for the benefit of the farmers including the necessary fine-tuning required.

Agricultural production in UP

3950. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL : Will be Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of centrally sponsored programmes formulated and being implemented by Government in Uttar Pradesh to increase agricultural production during the year 2001-2002;

(b) whether Government have fixed any target for increasing the agricultural production;